

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-90 (canceled)

✓ Claims 91-123 (withdrawn)

Claim 124 (previously added) An isolated polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of a DNA sequence encoding a *Neisseria* surface protein, wherein said *Neisseria* surface protein:

- (i) is resistant to proteinase K, and
- (ii) has an apparent molecular weight of 22 kDa,

wherein said polypeptide is antigenic.

G Claim 125 (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 124, ~~comprising a sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of~~ wherein said polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6 and SEQ ID NO:8.

✓ Claim 126 (withdrawn)

Claim 127 (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 124, comprising amino acids 31 to 55 of SEQ ID NO:2 and which is antigenic.

Claim 128 (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 124, comprising amino acids 51 to 86 of SEQ ID NO:2 and which is antigenic.

Claim 129 (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 124, comprising amino acids 110 to 140 of SEQ ID NO:2 and which is antigenic.

Claim 130 (previously added) The isolated polypeptide of claim 124, wherein said polypeptide is free from other proteins of *Neisseria* origin.

Claims 131-132 (withdrawn)

Claim 133 (previously added) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 124.

Claim 134 (previously added) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 133, which is a vaccine.

Claim 135 (previously added) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 134, comprising a pharmaceutical excipient.

Claim 136 (previously added) A method of preventing infection by a *Neisseria* pathogen, comprising administering an effective amount of the vaccine of claim 134.

Claim 137 (previously added) The method according to claim 136, wherein said pathogen is a *Neisseria meningitidis*.

Claims 138-169 (withdrawn)

Claim 170 (previously added) The vaccine of claim 134, which further comprises an adjuvant.

Claim 171 (previously added) The vaccine of claim 170, wherein the adjuvant is a liposome adjuvant.

Claim 172 (previously added) The method of claim 136, wherein the vaccine further comprises an adjuvant.

Claim 173 (previously added) The method of claim 172, wherein the adjuvant is a liposome adjuvant.

✓ Claim 174 (new) An isolated polypeptide from the surface of *Neisseria* bacteria which is resistant to proteinase K and has an apparent molecular weight of 22 kDa and is antigenic.

Claim 175 (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 174, wherein said polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 176 (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 124, wherein said polypeptide consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

① Claim 177 (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 124, consisting of amino acids 51 to 86 of SEQ ID NO:2 and which is antigenic.

Claim 178 (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 124, comprising amino acids 110 to 140 of SEQ ID NO:2 and which is antigenic.

Claim 179 (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 124, consisting of amino acids 31 to 55 of SEQ ID NO. 2 and which is antigenic.

Claim 180 (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 124 having an antigenicity effective for use as a vaccine.

Claim 181 (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 174 having an antigenicity effective for use as a vaccine.